

## Message Text

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63  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EA-06

INT-05 FEA-01 /106 W

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R 151255Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR  
SUBJ: EC/IRAN- SOAMES VISIT TO TEHRAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3828

1. SUMMARY: SOAMES VISIT TO IRAN RESULTED IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOI AGREEMENT TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH THE EEC TO EXPLORE ITS REQUEST FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATION OF AN EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. MAY 13-14 TALKS BETWEEN EC VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES AND GOI OFFICIAL ENDED OFFICIALLY WITH LATE AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 14 HELD JOINTLY WITH GOI MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY. PRESS

CONFERENCE STARTED WITH ANSARY DISTRIBUTING TO ASSEMBLED NEWSMEN HIS STATEMENT OUTLINING THE IRANIAN POSITION ON A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC. STATEMENT EXPLAINS RAPID INCREASE IN IRAN'S IMPORTS FROM THE EEC AREA WHICH ARE PREDICTED TO REACH \$16 BILLION ANNUALLY WITHIN 10 YEARS. PARAGRAPHS FROM ANSARY'S STATEMENT REITERATING THE IRANIAN POSITION ON THE PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT FOLLOW:

"WE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT THE CONCLUSION OF A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EEC IS THE BEST WAY TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER EXPAND THE PRESENT IMPRESSIVE SCOPE OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THIS, WE FEEL, MUST BE A NATURAL OUTCOME OF THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRAN AND THE EEC SINCE IT WOULD BE HARD, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO FIND AS IMPRESSIVE A RECORD OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EEC'S RELATIONS WITH ANY OF ITS OTHER TRADING PARTNERS AS THAT WITH IRAN. WE FEEL THAT ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENT WOULD PLACE IRAN IN A LESS FAVORABLE POSITION COMPARED WITH HER COMPETITORS.

"SIR CHRISTOPHER HAS INFORMED ME THAT WHILE HE HAS FULLY NOTED THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WITH REGARD TO THE NEED FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, HE FEELS THAT THERE ARE WAYS BY WHICH IRAN'S MAJOR OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT RE COURSE TO PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE HAS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT WE JOINTLY UNDERTAKE AT EXPERT LEVEL AN EXERCISE TO DETERMINE IF THE SAID OBJECTIVES CAN BE MET SATISFACTORILY BY MEANS OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HE FEELS THE COMMUNITY CAN PLACE BEFORE IRAN.

" WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT IRAN'S REQUIREMENT OF A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT, WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO COOPERATE IN SUCH AN EXERCISE."

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT ERIC PACE,  
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WHO WAS PRESENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE, SOAMES FIELDDED MOST OF NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS. REFERRING TO EXPERT LEVEL MEETING MENTIONED IN ANSARY'S STATEMENT, HE SAID THESE "EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS," TO BEGIN AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE DURING THE SUMMER, WOULD INQUIRE INTO WHAT THE "NATURE OF AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE." SOAMES AT ONE POINT REFERRED TO "THE PRIVILEGED POSITION WHICH WE IN THE COMMUNITY THINK IRAN SHOULD HAVE," BUT PACE WAID HE PLAINLY STATED HE FELT THE EEC "COULD PUT FORWARD IDEAS SUBSTANTIALLY MEETING THE NEEDS OF IRAN WITHOUT CONCLUDING A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT."

4. BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR ROBERT ALSTON SAID TALKS HAD GONE "PRETTY MUCH AS EXPECTED BY SOAMES." HE ADDED THAT HE

IS CERTAIN THAT THE U.S. POSITION IN OBJECTING TO THE EC/IRAN PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED TO THE IRANIANS. HE ALSO STATED THE EXPLORATORY TALKS PROBABLY WILL BE HELD AT A "LEISURELY PACE." OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE TOLD ECON COUNSELOR THAT THE TALKS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AT THE EXPERT LEVEL, WOULD BEGIN MOST PROBABLY IN BRUSSELS THIS SUMMER AND END BY AUTUMN. IN RECAPITULATING IRAN'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE EC, HE EXHIBITED NO PARTICULAR RANCOR THAT IRAN HAD NOT GOTTEN WHAT IT WANTED IN THIS OUTING, BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IRAN WOULD PERSEVERE UNTIL SOME "MUTUALLY AGREEABLE" DECISION IS REACHED.

5. COMMENT: THE GOI CLEARLY REMAINS TO BE CONVINCED THAT ITS DEMANDS CAN BE MET BY SOMETHING SHORT OF THE PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT IT IS SEEKING.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MFN, VISITS, FOREIGN TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS)  
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**Subject:** n/a  
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BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
DUBLIN  
THE HAGUE  
LONDON

LUXEMBOURG  
PARIS  
ROME  
EC BRUSSELS  
OECD PARIS

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